

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed July 21, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-73 were originally presented for examination. In the outstanding office action claims 15-20 are objected to, claims 1-14 and 21-32 are rejected and claims 33-73 are withdrawn from consideration. By the foregoing Amendments, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 15 and 33-73 have been canceled, and claims 74-102 have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-14, 16-33 and 74-102 will be pending in this application. Of these sixty (60) claims, three (3) claims (claims 1, 74 and 88) are independent claims. Based upon the above Amendment and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections, be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Priority Claim

2. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that papers submitted July 26, 2004 under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) have been entered into the record of this application.

Art of Record

3. Applicants acknowledge receipt of form PTO-892 listing additional references identified by the Examiner.

4. Applicants thank the Examiner for returning form PTO-1449 submitted by Applicants on September 9, 2004, initialed by the Examiner indicating consideration of the references cited therein.

Drawings

5. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the formal drawings received on April 16, 2004 have been accepted by the Examiner.

Election/Restrictions

6. Claims 33-73 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to nonelected inventions, there being no allowable or generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on June 12, 2006. Applicant hereby cancels claims 33-73. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims and other disclosed subject matter in a continuation/divisional application.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Applicants thanks Examiner for indicating that claims 15-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the recitations of dependent claim 15. Thus, claim 1 includes the recitations of an objected claim (claim 15), its base claim (claim 1) and all intervening claims (none). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that amended claim 1 is patentable. Dependent claims 2-14 and 16-32 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

8. The Examiner indicated that claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have added new independent claim 74 to include the recitations of dependent claim 16. Thus, claim 74 includes the recitations of an objected claim (claim 16), its base claim (claim 1) and all intervening claims (none). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that new claim 74 is patentable. Dependent claims 75-87 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

9. The Examiner indicated that claim 17 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have added new independent claim 88 to include the recitations of dependent claim 17. Thus, claim 88 includes the recitations of an objected claim (claim 17), its base claim (claim 1) and all intervening claims (none). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that new

claim 88 is patentable. Dependent claims 89-102 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

10. Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 14, and 22-30 are rejected as being anticipated by Kuzma (US Patent No. 6,321,125). Applicants have amended claim 1 and added new claims 74-102 thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

11. Claim 2 is rejected as being unpatentable over Kuzma (US Patent No. 6,321,125).

12. Claims 5-10, 12 and 13 are rejected as being unpatentable over Kuzma (U.S. Patent No. 6,321,125) in view of Kuzma (US Patent No. 6,078,841). Applicants have amended claim 1 and added new claims 74-102 thereby rendering this rejection moot.

New Claims

13. The Examiner indicated that claims 15-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

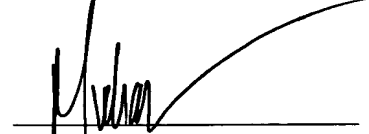
Dependent claims

14. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them *a fortiori* independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

15. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance.
A notice to his effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael G. Verga', is written over a horizontal line.

Michael G. Verga
Reg. No. 39,410
Customer No.: 22,506
Tel. (703) 563-2005

Jagtiani + Gutttag
10363-A Democracy Lane
Fairfax, VA 22030
Tel. (703) 563-2005

December 21, 2006